



## **MEETING MINUTES / 18 AUGUST 2020**

**\*\*MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS\*\***

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Present: Baldwin, Lopez, Bradley, Farley, Lardizzone, Lopez, Magner, McMullen, Miller, Phillips, Sarg, Seppala, Showell, Sutton

Excused: Farley

Guests: Courtney Stewart (Deputy Secretary of State), Tina Foskey (Delaware Veterans Home), Michael Green (Delaware Veterans Home), Pat Cerchio (First State Women Warriors), Dave Skocik (Veterans Coalition)

### **CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS:**

Acknowledged new commissioners: William Miller (American Legion), Paul Phillips (Veterans of Foreign Wars), and Gregory Sutton (At Large)

Moment of silence

Acknowledged Marines and one Sailor who lost their lives in California

Acknowledged new commissioners: William Miller (American Legion), Paul Phillips (Veterans of Foreign Wars), and Gregory Sutton (At Large) and they performed introductions

### **MEETING MINUTES:**

Prior minutes were motioned to approve by Lardizzone seconded by Bradley

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:**

**Wilmington VAMC – Vince Kane, Director**

Not present

**Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Tina Foskey, Director:**

Census is 61 residents

Introduced regulatory specialist Michael Green

COVID focus survey was performed by the division of public health, ensured compliance with COVID regulations

Wilmington VA performed recognition survey for the kitchen and dining area

One resident was positive in July, had returned to the home from Bay Health hospital and tested positive, placed in isolation for 10 days, remained asymptomatic and returned to general population

There are no residents or staff positive now

Continue to retain 90 days of personal protective equipment

Holding off on admissions as a precaution

Still no visitations, adhering to state regulations, working on outside and window visitations

(Sarg) Are you offering Skype or other types of visits?

Yes

Residents are offered testing twice per month and staff are mandated to take tests every other week

(Sarg) Are you still accepting admission applications?

Yes, although not admitting residents, the applications are still being accepted

(Sarg) What's the status of the call system?

ADT is scheduled to come out to assess the system to make the necessary updates to the call bell system, will have to wait until after COVID restrictions are lifted

**Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:**

Not present

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Anna Lopez for Liz Byers

Women's Tea is being planned, not sure of date

Give a Vet a Smile program is still happening

Stand Down is scheduled for 23 April

Seeking veteran business training center in Greenwood

Dave Skocik, Veterans Coalition

The trust fund dinner has been cancelled

Working on a direct mail fundraiser

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Magner:**

Interments – 80 (-1)

Cemeteries require 3x5 feet organization flags, should be an outdoor flag

- Should have two in reserve

**Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:**

Interments – 37 (+8)

National Wreaths Across America still plans on placing wreaths on Saturday, 19 December / 1030

**Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:**

Mental Health Summit is 31 August – 4 September in a virtual platform

Flu session is coming so get your immunizations in September and October

Department of VA has provided \$538M in retroactive payments for Blue Water claims

Healthcare for adult special needs family members is being reviewed for supplemental Tricare

**Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:**

Requesting commissioner inputs for 2021 legislative recommendations, will present completed document at December meeting

(Baldwin) Spoke to Secretary of State and requested that Senator Poore provide feedback on the status of HB 265, 100% service-connected property/school tax exemption

(Baldwin) Need to seek sponsors for legislative proposals

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:**

DVTF Previous Month: Applications 4; Granted 4 (100%); Awarded \$6,775.39; Balance - \$93,000.00

**ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:**

Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)

Chapter meeting on 13 August, selected new president and formed new council

Virtual international summit on 25 August

POW/MIA events, 15 – 18 September, are tentative

Legislative week is 6 – 9 October

Commissioner Miller (American Legion - AL)  
No change in national and departmental officers  
Headquarters and posts are operating

Commissioner Bradley (American Veterans - AMVETS)  
Nothing to report

Commissioner Lardizzone (Disabled American Veterans - DAV)  
Submitted claims for 49 clients, 10 were DIC  
Departmental meeting first Wednesday in September and chapter meeting will be second Thursday in September  
Tornado damage (roof) at Camden location

Vacant (Korean War Veterans)  
Nothing to report

Commissioner Farley (Marine Corps League - MCL)  
Nothing to report

Commissioner Sarg (Military Officers Association of America - MOAA)  
Forwarded MOAA lobby package to Senators Coons and Carper concerning 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, requested support of healthcare delivery system, preventing additional cuts to military medicine, stop handover of military hospitals to defense health agency  
MOAA has COVID 19 financial relief fund, giving up to \$500.00 toward assistance from local chapters

Commissioner Magner (Military Order of the Purple Heart - MOPH)  
Department is on summer vacation  
National Service Officers program is suspended negatively impacting 98,000 veterans with Powers or Attorney, are referring those veterans to other service organizations with service officers  
Department is communicating through Zoom meetings  
Maintaining veterans group meeting through Zoom

Commissioner Phillips (Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW)  
Posts are open  
Service officer is located at the Wilmington Vet Center, no longer at Wilmington benefits office

Commissioner Baldwin (Vietnam Veterans of America – VVA)  
Cancelled October golf tournament  
Wondered how JROTC units would operate virtually

Commissioner Showell (At Large, affiliated with Delaware National Guard)  
Deployment event for 238th Aviation Regiment, on 9 August, 50 soldiers are deploying  
Former TAG General Timmons passed away, Facebook livestream viewing is today / 1400 and a celebration of life service will be in October  
DNG Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on 12 September / 1300, honoring COL Showell, CWO Jester, CCSM Sine, Facebook livestream viewing

Commissioner Seppala (At Large, affiliated with Military Order of World Wars)  
No longer MOWW departmental commander

Commissioner Sutton (At Large)

Discussed Delaware State Housing Authority's Delaware Housing Assistance Program which offers rental or mortgage payment assistance

Commissioner Lopez (At Large, affiliated with Delaware Veterans)

Continues to receive calls from previous wounded warrior clients

Del Vets executive meetings have been in person

Preparing for first general membership meeting, with a Zoom option

Serving food at the post three times a week

Departmental newsletter is difficult to produce due to limited activities

Mayor's crisis committee is being re-evaluated for future direction

Participated in University of Delaware fellowship forum where students interviewed female veterans seeking information about their service challenges to forward to the Department of Defense

**TERM COMPLETION:**

Baldwin – 9 September 2020

McMullen – 9 September 2020

Showell – 9 September 2020

**EVENTS:**

There was an inquiry about Vet Fest, it is scheduled for 26 September / 0830 – 1230, Whitehall in an in-person and virtual format

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:**

(Sarg) Sussex Central and Sussex Technical High School's JROTC unit was disbanding at the end of the school year

**SPECIAL SESSION:**

Director Kirby announced his resignation effective Friday, 28 August

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Tuesday, 15 September 2020 at 1000**

**LOCATION:**

**Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs**